(b) if so, the states taken to enhance the allocation of LPG to the State; and

(c) the details of the LPG allocation originally proposed to be made and subsequently enhanced for the State during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The demand of the existing consumers of LPG in Gujarat, who are enrolled with the distributors of public sector oil companies, is by and large being met in full. Temporary backlogs that may arise are cleared by augmenting LPG supplies through operation of bottling plants for extended hours and on holidays and by arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas. LPG is not an allocated product and no advance allocation is made.

Introduction of Five Year Tax Holiday Scheme

446. SHRI RAJU BHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways have sought application of the Five Year Tax Holiday Scheme as applicable to various transport sector projects like the ports and highways; and

(b) if so, what precise decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Finance Bill, 1995, the five-year tax holiday scheme has been made applicable to investments in Railways also.

Food Processing Industries in Punjab

447. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Food Processing Industries in the State of Punjab; Industry-wise;

(b) what is the number of employees working in these industries;

(c) what is the production capacity of each industry;

(d) whether Government are granting any assistance or loan facility to start a new food processing industry in the Punjab under the new Economic Policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors. Information with respect to all food processing units State-wise is not maintained by this Ministry. However, as per the Annual Survey of Industries for 1991-92, there were 69 units in the factory sector in the State of Punjab employing 7079 persons and the value of total output of these units was Rs. 441 crores. Similarly, as per the All India Census of Small Scale units registered upto 31st March, 1988, there were 4156 units in the State of Punjab employing 21502 persons and the value of total output of these units was Rs. 583.64 crores.

(b) to (e) The Ministry under its Plan schemes extends financial assistance to State Government organisations/cooperatives/voluntary organisations, etc. for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing units.

Fire in the forests of UP and HP

448. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forests in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have been on fire for long period this year destroying thousands of hectares of forest land;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such devastating fires in forests and the effect